

# Kinds of Sentences and Their Punctuation

A sentence may be one of four kinds, depending upon the number and type(s) of clauses it contains.

## Review:

An **independent clause** contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

### Example:

*I wrote my first novel last year.*

A **dependent clause** contains a subject and a verb, but no complete thought.

### Example:

*after I wrote my first novel last year*

1. A **SIMPLE SENTENCE** has one independent clause.

### Examples:

*Tom reads novels.*

*Tom reads newspapers.*

*Tom reads novels and newspapers. (compound direct object)*

*Tom reads and enjoys novels. (compound verb)*

*Tom and Harry read novels. (compound subject)*

*Tom and Harry read and enjoy novels and newspapers.  
(compound subject, verb, direct object)*

Punctuation note: NO commas separate **two** compound elements (subject, verb, direct object, indirect object, subjective complement, etc.) in a simple sentence.

2. A **COMPOUND SENTENCE** has two independent clauses joined by

- A. a [coordinating conjunction](#) (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*),
- B. a [conjunctive adverb](#) (e.g. *however, therefore*), or
- C. a [semicolon](#) alone.

**Examples** (to match A, B, and C above):

*A. Tom reads novels, **but** Jack reads comics.*

*B. Tom reads novels; **however**, Jack reads comics.*

*C. Tom reads novels; his friend reads comics.*

**Punctuation patterns** (to match A, B, and C above):

- A. Independent clause,        coordinating conjunction    independent clause.
- B. Independent clause;        conjunctive adverb, independent clause.
- C. Independent clause;        independent clause.

3. A **COMPLEX SENTENCE** has one [dependent clause](#) (headed by a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun ) joined to an [independent clause](#).

**Examples:**

*A. Although Tom reads novels, Jack reads comics.*

*B. Jack reads comics although Tom reads novels.*

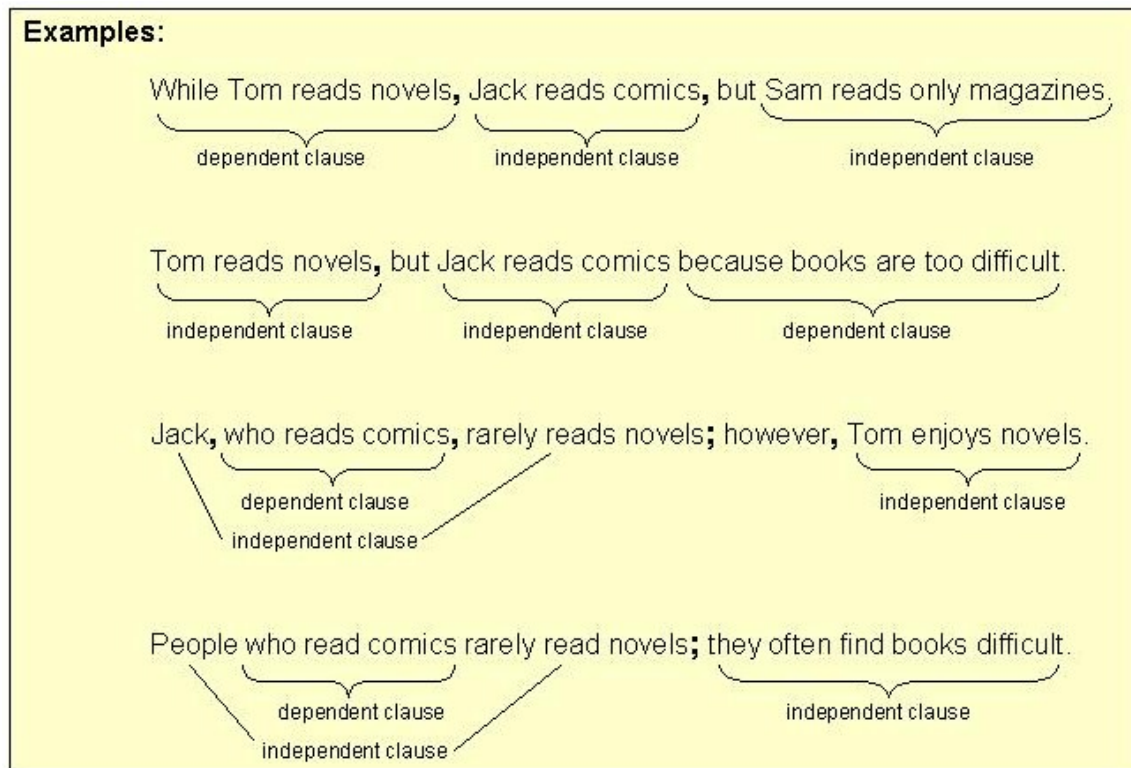
*C. Jack Smith, who reads comics, rarely reads novels.*

*D. People who read comics rarely read novels.*

**Punctuation patterns** (to match A, B, C and D above):

- A. Dependent clause, independent clause
- B. Independent clause    dependent clause
- C. Independent,    nonessential dependent clause,    clause.
- D. Independent    essential dependent clause    clause.

4. A **COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE** has two independent clauses joined to one or more dependent clauses.



#### Punctuation patterns:

Follow the rules given above for compound and complex sentences.

A compound-complex sentence is merely a combination of the two.

### **CONNECTORS--COMPOUND AND COMPLEX SENTENCES**

Two independent clauses may be joined by

1. Coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS)    **lc,    and    ic**
2. Conjunctive adverbs    **lc;    therefore,    ic.**

A dependent (subordinate) clause may be introduced by

1. Subordinating conjunctions (ADVERB CLAUSE)    **Dc, ic.      or      lc dc.**
2. Relative pronouns (ADJECTIVE CLAUSE)    **I,      dc,    c.      or      I              dc**  
**c.**
3. Relative pronoun, subordinating conjunctions, or adverbs (NOUN CLAUSE)

